

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:) Examiner: Naresh VIG
)
Sudeth KUMATH et al.) Art Unit: 3629
)
Serial No.: 09/833,034) Confirmation No.: 8354
)
Filed: April 10, 2001) Customer No.: 53156
)
For: METHODS, DEVICES AND SYSTEMS)
FOR ONLINE EXPRESS ORDERING)
OF GOODS AND SERVICES)
) <u>AMENDMENT</u>
Atty. Docket No.: ORCL5665CIP)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2006, please amend the above application as indicated below.

A complete listing of the **claims** begins on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **15** of this paper.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method of processing an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor over a computer network, comprising the steps of:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item; responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, and receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, further including a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list

being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one an~~ authorized person to modify the first quote.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of converting the first and any second purchase request into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending a message to the customer over the computer network when the first quote is converted into the first order.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim 22, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system configured for processing an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor over a computer network, comprising:
at least one processor;
at least one data storage device;
a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes including processing logic for:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item; responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more

additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, **and**
receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 24, further including a process for carrying out a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

27. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

28. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 27, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

29. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

30. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

31. **(Cancelled)**

32. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 24, further including the processes for carrying out the steps of :

generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

33. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

34. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 33, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one~~ an authorized person to modify the first quote.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 35, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

37. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

38. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 37, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

39. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The computer system of claim 24, further comprising the step of converting the first and any additional purchase requests into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

43. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising processes for carrying out the steps of:

receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

44. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 32, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

45. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system of claim 32, further comprising a process for carrying out the step of sending a message to the customer over the computer network when the first quote is converted into the first order.

46. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 45, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.

47. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable medium having data stored thereon representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by computing device, causes said computing device to process an online purchase request from a customer to a vendor over a computer network by performing the steps of:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item; responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more additional purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute, and receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection.

48. **(Cancelled)**

49. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 47, further including a step of enabling the customer to create a list that includes the first and at least one second item, the list being persistently stored to enable later retrieval and processing according to the first or second order processing routes.

50. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the first item includes a uniquely identified and pre-stored list of goods and/or services.

51. **(Original)** The medium of claim 50, wherein the list includes an object, the object including at least one of another list and item.

52. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the first online purchase request is received from an automated process configured to generate the first online purchase request at one of a selectable date and interval.

53. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the customer identifies the first item using a unique identifier used by the customer and wherein the vendor maps the identifier used by the customer to a corresponding unique identifier used by the vendor.

54. **(Cancelled)**

55. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, further including the steps of: generating a first quote that includes the processed first online purchase request, the first quote including at least one of an identification of the first item and an identification of the shopping cart;

enabling modifications to be made to the first quote, the first quote persisting at least until a consolidation interval has elapsed, and

carrying out the converting step by converting the first quote into the first executable order when a quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified at least for the consolidation interval.

56. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the first quote generating step includes a step of generating an order status Web page that is viewable by the customer, the order status Web page displaying selected details of the first quote.

57. **(Original)** The medium of claim 56, wherein the order status Web page is configured to refer to the first quote as a pending order.

58. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the enabling step allows at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one an~~ authorized person to modify the first quote.

59. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 58, wherein the ~~at least one~~ authorized person includes the customer and a sales representative.

60. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the quote conversion process is launched at a selectable interval.

61. **(Original)** The medium of claim 60, wherein the consolidation interval is measured from a time at which the quote conversion process is launched.

62. **(Original)** The medium of claim 55, wherein the quote conversion process runs continuously.

63. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the step of converting the first and any additional purchase requests into an executable order and sending the executable order to an order fulfillment system.

64. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the second online purchase request is received before the first quote is converted into the first order.

65. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

adding the second item to the first quote when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time that is less than the consolidation interval.

66. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the steps of: receiving a second online purchase request for a second item from the customer over the computer network, and

generating a second quote that includes an identification of the second item and the retrieved information when the quote conversion process determines that the first quote has remained unmodified for a period of time greater than the consolidation interval.

67. **(Original)** The medium of claim 47, wherein the quote conversion process determines a difference between a time at which a last modification to the first quote was made and a current time and converts the quote to the first order when the difference is greater than the consolidation interval.

68. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 47, further comprising the step of sending a message to the customer **over the computer network** when the first quote is converted into the first order.

69. **(Original)** The medium of claim 68, wherein the message includes one of an email, an instant message, a voice message and a video message.

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2006. At the outset, the applicant's representative wishes to thank Examiner Vig for his time, courtesy and helpfulness during the recent telephone interview of March 31, 2006.

As the Examiner will recall, the examiner requested, relative to the second full paragraph of page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, that the independent claims be amended to recite that the first online purchase request is received over a computer network. The independent claims have been so amended.

The Examiner also voiced his concern in the second full paragraph of the outstanding Office Action and during the telephone interview, that no selection of the first or second order processing route was recited in the independent claims. Responsive thereto, the independent claims have been amended to recite "receiving from the customer a selection of the first order processing route or the second order processing route and processing the first online purchase request according to the customer's selection", as discussed during the telephone interview.

Claims 1, 24 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC §112(2) for the recitation "responsive to the first online request" lacked antecedent basis. Responsive to this rejection, this step has been amended to read "responsive to the first online **purchase** request." Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are, therefore, believed to be warranted.

Claims 12-13, 35-36, 58-59 were rejected for indefiniteness. Responsive thereto and as discussed during the telephone interview, the offending recitation "at least one of the customer, a selected process and at least one authorized person" has been amended to "at least one of the customer, a selected process and ~~at least one~~ an authorized person." As agreed during the

interview, the amended phrase is now sufficiently definite for the purposes of the second paragraph of section 112.

Before discussing the applied art, the Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to the second paragraph of page 3 of the outstanding Office Action. As discussed during the most recent and previous telephone interviews, the independent claims require "providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route", in which the second order processing route affords "the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute." Therefore, the Office is not at liberty to choose to consider just the first order processing route or to just consider the second order processing route." The claims require that the bifurcated order processing route be provided to the customer, with each of the constituent first and second order processing routes of the bifurcated order processing route being configured as claimed.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-24, 26-28, 32-47, 49-51 and 55-69 were rejected as being anticipated by B&N (additional pages added). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 recites:

receiving, over the computer network, a first online purchase request for a first item;

responsive to receiving the first online purchase request, providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route, the first order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be processed according to an express processing procedure that requires no further input by the customer to execute the first online purchase request, the second order processing route causing the first online purchase request to be placed in a shopping cart that allows one or more additional

purchase requests for additional items to be placed therein, the second order processing route affording the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute.

Therefore, to anticipate this claim, B&N must disclose a step of “providing a bifurcated order processing route that requests the customer to choose a first order processing route or a second order processing route,” in which the second order processing route affords “the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping card to be processed according to the express ordering processing that requires no further input by the customer to execute.” Failing such, the 35 USC §102(a) rejection must be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that B&N does not teach such a bifurcated order processing route. In particular, B&N does not teach any second order processing route that affords the customer an opportunity to cause execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer to execute. As discussed in detail during the most recent telephone interview, B&N teaches to place items in a shopping cart, but does not teach processing the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer. Indeed, B&N teaches, at page 12 of 35, at “How to Check Out the Items in Your Cart” to

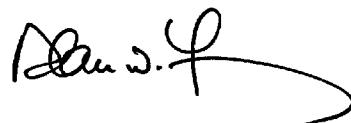
- 1) click the shopping cart link;
- 2) click Checkout Now;
- 3) Enter customer information (if not already in the system);
- 4) click Continue, and
- 5) click Press Here to Send My Order.

As the Examiner can see, this protracted process requires lots of “input by the customer to execute” and cannot be likened to the claimed causing “execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer to execute.” Likewise, the section on page 13 of B&N referred to by the Office in the “how to Place an Order Using Express Lane” section does not teach any method or means for causing “execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer to execute,” as claimed. Throughout the description of B&N’s “Express Lane,” the customer’s purchase is referred to as “the item” (note the singular), and not as a shopping cart.

The Examiner also pointed to page 5 of 35 of B&N. However, there is no mention in this page of executing “the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer to execute,” as claimed. Instead, the customer is simply instructed to go to Checkout, to enter his or her email address and password, if such has not already been entered, and to enter his or her payment instrument information. Nothing further is said regarding the checkout procedure in this page. It is respectfully submitted that the B&N (including the additional pages thereof provided to the applicant) do not teach or suggest providing a bifurcated order processing route having the claimed first and second order processing routes, with the second order processing route being configured as claimed to cause “execution of the first and any additional purchase requests placed in the shopping cart according to the express order processing route that requires no further input by the customer to execute.” Failing such, it is respectfully requested that the anticipatory rejection of the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is believed that each of the Examiner's concerns, objections and rejections have been addressed and/or overcome, as appropriate. Applicants, therefore, believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 31, 2006

By: _____

Alan W. Young
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 37,970

YOUNG LAW FIRM, P.C.
4370 Alpine Rd., Ste. 106
Portola Valley, CA 94028
Tel.: (650) 851-7210
Fax: (650) 851-7232

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